

loss and destruction on a catastrophic scale. I want to send a message of condolence to those Australian families who have lost lives and livelihoods. Australia is and always will be an important ally and friend to the United States. The Australian people will truly be in my thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks. I wish the affected communities the very best as they rebuild their lives and communities, and I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

TRIBUTE TO ARNOLD AMELL

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Arnold "Arnie" Amell, the chair of Plattsburgh State's College Council in Upstate New York.

A native of Beekmantown, New York, Arnie spent decades devoting his life to the New York education system. Throughout the years, he served as a teacher, a guidance counselor, director of guidance, assistant principal and principal. Outside of the classroom, he served as a member of the college council at SUNY Plattsburgh, President of the Kiwanis Club of Schenectady, and a member of the Northeast Parent and Child Society. Most recently, he spent the last two years as chair of the College Council at SUNY Plattsburgh. Through his decades of service, he worked to enhance the quality of education youth receive in Upstate New York, and provided a strong foundation for countless students of all ages.

Everyone who knew Arnie can say that they knew a man completely devoted to his family and his community. I have personally known Arnie for years and have served on the college council at Plattsburgh State University with him.

The Plattsburgh community has lost a true friend and a great leader, but his memory and spirit will continue to inspire generations of Upstate New Yorkers who will work to better their community in this tradition.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF HARLAND WESTMORELAND

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harland Westmoreland, a dedicated public servant who will retire as assistant chief of the Euless Police Department. As assistant chief, Mr. Westmoreland carried out his duties with honor, boldness, and enthusiasm. With a commitment to service, Mr. Westmoreland has been a leader in the Euless Police Department over the past 35 years.

Mr. Westmoreland was born in Gorman, Texas and attended Reagan County High School in Big Lake, Texas and Dallas Baptist University for both undergraduate and graduate school. At Dallas Baptist University, Mr. Westmoreland earned a masters degree in

counseling and psychology. Along with numerous certifications and licenses, Mr. Westmoreland is a master peace officer. Mr. Westmoreland and his wife Juanita reside in Euless and have four children and ten grandchildren.

In 1974, while working in the private sector, Mr. Westmoreland joined the Euless Police Department as a reserve officer. By 1975, Mr. Westmoreland chose to make law enforcement and public service a full time career. In 1982, Mr. Westmoreland became an investigator, and in 1985 he was promoted to sergeant. In January 1993, Mr. Westmoreland was promoted to lieutenant, and in December of the same year he earned the rank of captain. In September 2004, Mr. Westmoreland became assistant police chief of the city of Euless.

Assistant Chief Westmoreland has committed his career to protecting the citizens and community of Euless. Throughout his career in law enforcement, Mr. Westmoreland has positively affected the lives of countless individuals. As exemplified by his many acts of heroism, Mr. Westmoreland has sacrificed his well-being to ensure the public safety of the residents of Euless. I ask all of my colleagues to join in recognizing Assistant Police Chief Westmoreland for his bravery, for his courage, and for his distinguished career with the Euless Police Department.

THE HOUSE'S READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, when we read the Constitution in this body on January 6, 2011, we missed a good opportunity. I joined in the reading. I was certainly not going to allow one political party to claim the Constitution for its own, as it has sometimes tried to claim the U.S. flag. However, by reading an altered version of the Constitution and by doing so without warrant we lost a great educational moment.

I revere the U.S. Constitution and carry a copy of the Constitution with me every day. I often ask students what they think is the greatest invention of humans. Because they know that I am a scientist, they usually say something technical like the laser or a microchip in answer to my question. I reply that the greatest invention is the U.S. Constitution. It is truly ingenious: Because of this document, our brilliant, resilient, self-correcting system of government, dreamed up in Philadelphia so many years ago, still functions well today. The system inspires and motivates people around the world.

Instead of reading the full Constitution, members of the House took turns reading an altered text based on the amendments. I was further troubled to learn that because of human error we skipped two pages during our reading.

The altered text omitted the original language of Article I, Section 2 that counted each black individual as only three-fifths of a person for the purposes of apportionment of Representatives, omitting it and reading only the text of the 14th Amendment that apportioned Representatives according to the total number

of all male citizens. Yet, Article I, Section 3 that proscribes that the two Senators from each state be chosen by the state legislature, a passage of the Constitution subsequently amended by the 17th Amendment, was read in its original format.

The decision to not read the full text ignores the fundamental strength of the U.S. Constitution—its implicit recognition that the United States of America is an imperfect, ever evolving, self-correcting union. The Constitution is not a perfect document, and the Founders did not have all the answers. African American were counted as three-fifths of a person. Women were disenfranchised. The concept of privacy was glossed over. The full text of the Constitution and its Amendments should have been read today to help American recall and understand how we have strived and still strive "to form a more perfect Union."

The Constitution was a compromise throughout. In addition to counting each black individual as only three-fifths of a person, it was virtually silent on slavery, the great injustice of the day. But after a way that almost destroyed the Union, after more than half a million died, and when brother fought brother, the Constitution was amended and updated to reflect the will of the people. Today, the American experiment continues to improve. Freedoms and protections of rights keep growing in the face of both consistent and ever-changing threats.

Langston Hughes—an American who was denied the rights and freedoms that all of us deserve—wrote in *Let America Be America Again*, 1938,

O, yes,

I say it plain,

America never was America to me,

And yet I swear this oath—

America will be!

Students attending under-performing schools, millions of Americans without health insurance, and widespread poverty demonstrate that even today, America never was America for far too many of us. But our Constitution lets us admit when we are wrong and correct our mistakes. Our collective vision of America must include an expanding sphere of freedom, liberty, and opportunity for all. And most importantly, we must never believe we are so infallible that we fail to strive for a "more perfect Union."

CONGRATULATIONS PERRY FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friend Richard Perry, a Washington and Lee University graduate, and his wife Kristin Perry on the birth of their daughter Liza May Perry. Liza was born on Saturday, January 1, 2011, in Washington, DC.

Liza May Perry is six pounds and two ounces of pride and joy to her loving grandparents, Anne and Robert "Skipper" Perry, Jr. of Aiken, South Carolina, and Winifred Joan Off of West Chester, Pennsylvania. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Perry family and wish them all the best.